

To: Torres, Tomas[Torres.Tomas@epa.gov]
Cc: Montgomery, Michael[Montgomery.Michael@epa.gov]
From: Albright, David
Sent: Tue 1/26/2016 6:31:22 PM
Subject: Draft GAO report on UIC - discussion with Peter G

Hi Tomas,

In advance of your meeting with Peter, I wanted to forward some information about a draft GAO Report that EPA is currently reviewing. The Report highlights findings and recommendations from GAO's review of EPA's oversight of Class II UIC inspection and enforcement activities. Although the review was focused mostly on oversight of state UIC program enforcement, the Report highlights GAO's concerns about overall Class II UIC program oversight by EPA, and includes some discussion about the non-compliance of CA's Class II UIC program.

Overall, the Agency is taken to task for a number of failures related to Class II program oversight – insufficient inspection/enforcement data collection, lack of detailed, accurate aquifer exemption data, and inadequate State oversight. The California issues we are dealing with are highlighted in the Report as examples of what can happen as a result of some of the failures that GAO alleges. The Report makes several recommendations for EPA action nationally: require collection of well-specific inspection data; finalize an up-to-date aquifer exemption database; clarify enforcement reporting guidance; and conduct a workforce analysis to identify the resources needed to carry out EPA's Class II UIC oversight responsibility.

I don't think there is anything new in the Report. GAO interviewed us (and Enforcement Division) and also spoke with DOGGR as part of their review. We provided all of the State/EPA correspondence, so the information they provide is generally accurate and updated.

Let me know if you have any specific questions.

Thanks,

David